

4VAC15-40-220

Game: In General: Use of deadfalls prohibited; restricted use of snares.

Summary:

The proposal is to change the language defining the maximum permissible snare loop size from 12" in diameter to 38" in circumference.

Proposed language of amendment:

4VAC15-40-220. Use of deadfalls prohibited; restricted use of snares.

It shall be unlawful to trap, or attempt to trap, on land any wild bird or wild animal with any deadfall or snare; provided, that snares with loops no more than ~~12 inches in diameter~~ 38 inches in circumference and with the bottom of the snare loop set not to exceed 12 inches above ground level may be used with the written permission of the landowner. Snares with the top of the snare loop set higher than 12 inches above ground level must include a single-piece lock that is not power assisted, a cable stop that prevents the snare loop from closing smaller than 2-1/2 inches in diameter, and a break-away device that has been tested to break or disassemble at no more than 285 pounds pull.

Rationale:

The current regulation that restricts the maximum snare loop size to a diameter of 12" can cause confusion when the loop is set in a shape that is not perfectly round. Although a snare may have a loop that measures 12" in diameter when round, it may hang in a teardrop shape when set in the field and measure more than 12" from top to bottom. By defining the maximum loop size as having a 38" circumference, this confusion can be eliminated since the circumference does not change when the loop shape is modified. This change does not increase snare loop size, since a snare with a 38" circumference has a loop diameter of 12" when set perfectly round. This regulation will help reduce confusion by trappers when setting snares in the field.